

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DHA-02 ACDA-07 EB-07 TRSE-00

SAM-01 AGR-05 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 AID-05 BIB-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6342

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, ECE, UN, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET APPROACH TO WORLD ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS: LEWIS

INVITATION TO NESTERENKO?

REF: (A) STATE 90739, (B) MOSCOW 4662,

1. SUMMARY. IN DISCUSSION WITH ACTING POLCOUNS APRIL 21, MFA USA DIVISION COUNSELOR (FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS) SOKOLOV PROFESSED TO BE SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF ECE DISCUSSION OF BREZHNEV'S CONFERENCES PROPOSAL, AND PREDICTED SOVIETS WOULD CONTINUE TO PUSH IT. IN RESPONSE TO DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER SOVIETS HAVE ADEQUATE "OBJECTIVE" INCENTIVES TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN WORLD ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS, SOKOLOV STRESSED SOVIETS FEEL THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS WHICH WILL AFFECT THEM, AND CITED IMPACT OF ENERGY DECISIONS ON SOVIET-EE RELATIONS AS EXAMPLE. HE AFFIRMED STRONGLY THAT IDEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS RAISED BY CONSTRUCTIVE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH NON-SOCIALIST STATES HAD BEEN RESOLVED YEARS AGO, AGAINST AUTARKY.

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FINALLY, HE SUGGESTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS INVITE MFA

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ACTION OFFICER NESTERENKO TO JOINT ISRAELYAN
IN JUNE BILATERALS FOCUSSED ON UN MATTERS. SUGGESTIONS SEEM
WORTH SERIOUS AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION; ADDING NESTERENKO,
IT SEEMS TO US, CAN DO LITTLE HARM, AND COULD DO SOME GOOD.
END SUMMARY.

2. AT ADCM'S LUNCHEON FOR GARRISON APRIL 21, MFA USA DIVISION
COUNSELOR (FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS) O.M. SOKOLOV RAISED DISCUSSION
AT 31ST ECE SESSION ON SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR CONFERENCES ON THE
ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY (ETE) WITH ACTING POLCOUNS.
(SOKOLOV HANDLES U.S. ASPECTS OF PROPOSAL IN HIS DIVISION,
AND RECEIVED MARCH 26 DEMARCHE TOGETHER WITH MOLCHANOV OF MFA
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION HEADED BY NESTERENKO.
SOKOLOV PROFESSED TO BE FAIRLY SATISFIED WITH WHAT HAD HAPPENED
IN GENEVA: AT LEAST, HE SAID, THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES
HAD SPECIFIED THE PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT BE OF INTEREST, AND THE ECE
SEC GEN HAD AN OBLIGATION TO CONSULT AND REPORT VIEWS OF GOVERN-
MENTS AT THE NEXT SESSION. AS FOR THE SOVIETS, HE SAID, THEY
WOULD BE PROMOTING THEIR PROPOSAL AT EVERY REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY.

3. ACTING POLCOUNS GAVE HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THERE WERE TWO
MAIN PROBLEMS WITH SOVIET PROPOSAL. FIRST, EXCEPT IN THE FOOD
AREA SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD ECONOMIC TRANSACTIONS WAS NOT,
"OBJECTIVELY," LARGE ENOUGH TO GIVE THE USSR ADEQUATE INCENTIVES
FOR CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE SOLUTION OF MANY MAJOR
PROBLEMS. SECOND, THE STATUS OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IS STILL
SO UNCERTAIN THAT THE TRADITIONAL SOVIET INCLINATION TO SIDE
AUTOMATICALLY WITH THE SOUTH DOES NOT INSPIRE CONFIDENCE THAT
SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES WILL NOT BE
DISRUPTIVE.

4. SOKOLOV SAID HE UNDERSTOOD HOW THESE RESERVATIONS CAN
ARISE, BUT THOUGH THEY WERE IN FACT UNJUSTIFIED. SOVIETS HAVE A
DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE, HE EXPLAINED. THEY REALIZE THAT RESULTS
OF ONGOING DISCUSSIONS WILL INEVITABLY AFFECT THEIR INTERESTS.
FOR EXAMPLE, ENERGY DISCUSSIONS WILL PRODUCE RESULTS WHICH WILL
IMPACT ON SOVIET RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN STATES IT STATEW, GIVEN
THEIR LARGE DEPENDENCE ON USSR IN ENERGY. SOVIETS FEEL THEY
SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS WHOSE RESULTS THEY WILL
NECESSARILY BE SUBJECT TO. BY THE SAME TOKEN, THEY HAVE NO
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INTEREST IN UNCONSTRUCTIVE OR DISRUPTIVE APPROACH TO THESE DIS-
CUSSIONS. ASKED WHETHER USSR COULD NOT IN FACT LIVE WITH
RESULTS OF SOLUTIONS IN WHICH IT DID NOT PARTICIPATE, SOKOLOV
SAID OF COURSE IT COULD, BUT DID NOT WANT TO, AND DID NOT BELIEVE
IT SHOULD HAVE TO. WITH REGARD TO POINT ON SOVIET INCLINATIONS
IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, HE ADDED, FACT THAT ETE PROPOSAL RELATES
TO CSCE PARTICIPANT STATES MEANS ISSUE WILL NOT IN PRACTICE
ARISE.

5. ASKED IF HE WERE CONVINCED SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND PARTY ARE SATISFIED THAT SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN SOLUTION OF WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH NON-SOCIALIST STATES IS FULLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES, SOKOLOV SAID THAT ISSUE WAS RESOLVED SOME TIME AGO, BREZHNEV'S STATEMENTS IN THE U.S. AND WEST GERMANY TO THE EFFECT THAT USSR HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON AUTARKY, EXPRESS A FIRM AND FULLY AGREED OFFICIAL POSITION.

6. SOKOLOV NOTED THAT U.S. AND SOVIET HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN WORLD ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS SINCE EVEN BEFORE FORMER UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S FIRST VISIT TO MOSCOW. WHEN ACTING POLCOUNS SPECULATED THAT TOPIC MIGHT BE TOUCHED ON IN CONTEXT OF EITHER UNCTAD OR ISRAELYAN'S TALKS ON UN MATTERS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS IN JUNE, SOKOLOV VOLUNTEERED SUGGESTION THAT NESTERENKO BE INVITED ALONG WITH ISRAELYAN. NESTERENKO, AS HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION OF MFA, WAS EQUIVALENT IN RANK TO ISRAELYAN, SAID SOKOLOV, AND HE WAS CERTAIN NESTERENKO WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO INVITATION. NESTERENKO HAS THE PRIMARY ACTION RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROBLEMS OF SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION OF "GLOBAL ISSUES," AND IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS, SOKOLOV CONCLUDED.

7. ASKED WHY RODINOV, WHOSE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY IS RELATIONS WITH "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES, HAD BEEN CHOSE TO HEAD SOVIET ECE DEL, SOKOLOV SAID IT WAS BECAUSE KOVALEV IS ILL. ASKED WHO IS TENDING TO KOVALEV'S CSCE TASK FORCE, SOKOLOV SAID ZEMSKOV IS HANDLING THE BULK OF CSCE FOLLOW-UP WORK.

8. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE SUGGESTION THAT LEWIS INVITE NESTERENKO AS WELL AS ISRAELYAN FOR JUNE DISCUSSIONS IS WORTH SERIOUS AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. U.S.-SOVIET DISCUSSION OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR UPDATE ON SOVIET APPROACH
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IN WAKE OF UNCTAD FROM CHIEF SOVIET ACTION OFFICER, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT OUR VISS OFFICIALLY INTO THE SOVIET RECORD.
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